



Job Outlook for Utah College Grads

Jobs-A-Plenty.....2007 Utah College Grads

As graduation nears, Utah seniors are feeling boosts to their egos as they embrace an economy and job market that wants them. Employers are facing a "seller's" market for the skills they need. The seller in this case is the prospective employee, the graduate ready to start his/her career.

The Utah job market is not just a seller's market for college graduates but for virtually all levels of education and training. The state's economy has been on fire with growth rates about three times the national average. This growth has been around for a

while and the labor pool has slowly shrunk to the point that employers are having trouble finding workers for openings at all levels, but particularly for jobs requiring higher skills and education.


It's Not Just Utah

Employers around the nation are queuing up on college campuses to entice new sheepskin holders to come and work for them. The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) reports from their annual survey of employers, "employers expect to hire 17.4 percent more new college graduates in 2006-07 than they hired in 2005-06." We don't have the actual numbers for Utah, but can assume hiring/recruiting activity is similar, if not better, especially because Utah's economy is so hot. NACE also said that salary offers for new graduates were up from last year for almost all occupations.¹

Utah Graduates

Utah colleges and universities graduate, with a bachelor's degree, some 20,000 individuals each year. Many of them will seek employment here in the Beehive State, but some will look for opportunities outside of Utah. Either way, the outlook for employment is good. For many majors there will be more opportunity outside the state in markets where there are simply more jobs, like the east and west coasts. For example, business and finance grads may migrate toward these areas, where more of the action is. On the other hand, many graduates from outside the state seek Utah as a career destination. Utah is a very attractive place to work and live. Its economy is surging and that spells opportunity.

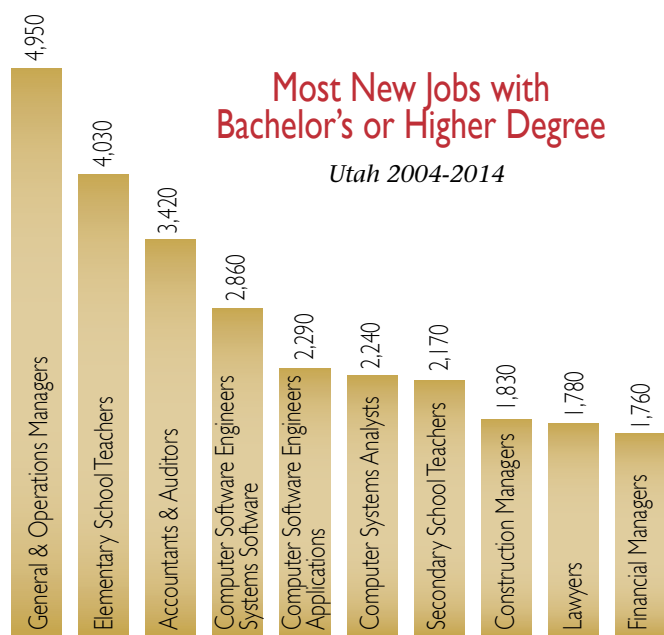
Looking Down the Road 10 Years—The Best Prospects for College Grads

The accompanying graph shows the top ten bachelor and higher occupations with the most new jobs for Utah from 2004-2014. See the Job Outlook for College Graduates (Occupational Outlook Quarterly, Fall 2006) for this same information at the national level. The link to this site appears to the right. 

2007

Employers expect to hire 17.4 percent more new college graduates in 2006-07 than they hired in 2005-06.

Report from the National Association of Colleges and Employers



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

¹ National Association of Colleges and Employers, Press Release February 9, 2007. <http://www.nacweb.org/press/display.asp?year=2007&prid=251>

For more information see:

- <http://stats.bls.gov/opub/ooq/2006/fall/art03.pdf>
- <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/outlooks/state/>

Psst...

What are universities saying?

"All majors are all going right now. The market is really hot for business, education, engineering and technical fields, and construction management... Students with any major who have relevant experience are really sought after..."

The job market is really good right now, it's a great time to be looking for a job."

-Patricia Whiting, Career Placement Services, Brigham Young University

"On-campus recruiting at USU increased approximately 25 percent in 2006-2007, compared to 2005-2006...the increased hiring needs of employers will create new and unique opportunities for students graduating in the liberal arts...in some disciplines there will be more job opportunities than students graduating (i.e., civil engineering)."

-Melissa Scheaffer, Career Services, Utah State University

"We have experienced four consecutive years of increased demand for college graduates, with some employers reporting a 15-percent to 25-percent increase in hiring projections...nursing, civil engineering and construction management are in high demand and low supply...demand for all engineers and technically trained graduates is strong. Beginning salaries reflect the demand for new college graduates with projected increases in starting salaries of 4.5 percent to 5.5 percent."

-Sam Morrison, Career Services, University of Utah